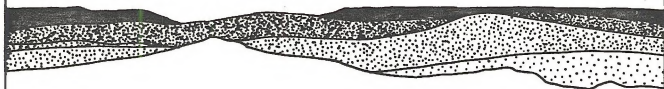




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# Bisti & De-Na-Zin Wilderness Areas

US Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management  
Albuquerque District  
Farmington Resource Area

November 1984

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## BISTI AND DE-NA-ZIN WILDERNESS AREAS

The Bisti and De-na-zin Wilderness Study Areas were designated by the U. S. Congress as Wilderness Areas on October 30, 1984. A wilderness management plan will be prepared for each area in cooperation with federal, state, county and local agencies, Indian Tribal governments, organizations, groups, and individuals that may be affected by wilderness activities. Different environmental settings, historical use, and management situations will be considered in the development of these plans.

Public meetings or workshops will be held to obtain public input in the identification of wilderness related issues, concerns, suggestions, and ideas. A 45-day comment period will be provided for public review and comment on the proposed plans. A planning schedule is being developed and dates for public comment will be announced.

### BISTI

The Bisti Wilderness Area contains 3,968 acres of upland rolling topography with some of the most unique badlands found in the Four Corners region. When sandstone is subjected to weathering it results in the many mushroom shaped formations found throughout the Bisti. Eroded silts and clays result in interesting landforms and the lack of vegetation. Opportunities for photography in the Bisti Wilderness is limited only by your imagination. The best approach to scenic formations is by following the wash that runs southwest through the area.

Approximately 70 million years ago, environmental and geologic changes gave rise to a major shift from reptilian to mammalian dominance. Examples of past life forms can be found throughout the badlands in the form of petrified logs, fossilized dinosaur bones, and other plant and animal fossils.

Access into the Bisti Wilderness is by taking State Road 371 from Farmington to Crownpoint. The first 33 miles are on the paved portion of State Road 371. There are an additional seven miles of dirt road on the old State Road 371 alignment. All vehicles should be parked on federal land on the west side of State Road 371 or south of the dirt road that comprises the southern boundary of the Wilderness Area (See enclosed map).

### DE-NA-ZIN

The De-na-zin Wilderness Area has 23,872 acres with upland rolling topography, fascinating badland formations, and flat grassy plains. Pinyon and juniper trees, yucca, Mormon tea, snakeweed, sagebrush, grasses and cactus are found in the eastern edge of the De-na-zin. Grasses are found in the north and northeast portions. A variety of birds and mammals such as jays,

ravens, quail, doves, hawks, golden eagles, rabbits, prairie dogs, coyotes, and badgers are found in the pinyon-juniper and grassland portions of the wilderness area. Little vegetation or wildlife is found in the badland portions. Numerous petrified logs, dinosaur bones, mammal fossils and other plant and animal fossils can be observed throughout the area.

Access into the De-na-zin Wilderness is from Highway 44 at Huerfano Trading Post (approximately 40 miles from Farmington) and approximately 8 miles along County Road 15. All vehicles should be parked on federal land on the south side of County Road 15 (C-15) and above the northern boundary of the wilderness area (see enclosed map).

#### WILDERNESS MANAGEMENT POLICY

Before plans are prepared, the Wilderness Management Policy, will guide day-to-day management. A portion of the general policy points are listed below:

The wilderness areas will be managed so as to be affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of human work substantially unnoticeable; so as to maintain the area's outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation; and so as to protect any ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value which the area may contain.

There shall be no temporary road, no use of motor vehicles, motorized equipment,...no other form of mechanical transport within the wilderness area.

Grazing of livestock, established prior to October 30, 1984, shall be permitted to continue subject to the Wilderness Management Policy and BLM grazing regulations.

Holders of unpatented mining claims validly established prior to October 30, 1984 are accorded the rights provided by the United States mining laws. A plan of operation must be filed with the BLM prior to commencing any surface disturbing activity.

Subject to valid existing rights, as of October 30, 1984, the minerals in these wilderness areas are withdrawn from all forms of appropriation under the mining laws and from disposition under all laws pertaining to mineral leasing...

Persons...who own land completely surrounded by a wilderness area shall be given such rights as may be necessary to assure adequate access to that land. Where the exercise of rights of access to surrounded...private land would be detrimental to wilderness values, the BLM shall, before granting access, attempt to acquire such land. Acquisition of privately-owned lands will occur only if the private owner concurs with the acquisition.

Buffer zones will not be created around wilderness areas to protect them from the influence of activities on adjacent land. The fact that nonwilderness activities or uses can be seen or heard from areas within the wilderness shall not, of itself, preclude such activities or uses up to the boundary of the wilderness area.

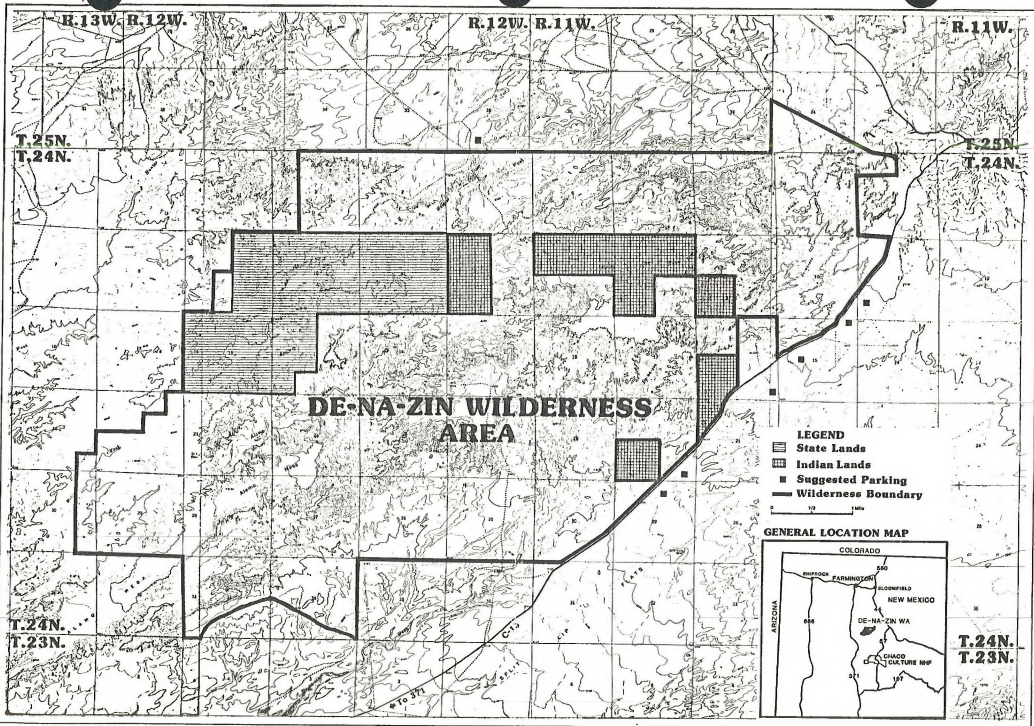
Visitor use in wilderness involves certain risks to the visitor as a consequence of isolation from the conveniences of facilities, supplies, and services. The visitor must accept these risks in entering wilderness areas. The suggestions listed below are provided to ensure a safe and enjoyable visit.

- \*Fill your gas tank in Farmington or Crownpoint before visiting the areas.
- \*Bring plenty of water since no drinking water is available.
- \*Boots, sunglasses and a hat are useful.
- \*Roads can be slippery when wet.
- \*Firewood is not available in the Bisti and woodcutting is not permitted in the De-na-zin, so other cooking facilities should be taken.
- \*Pack out all trash.

COLLECTING OF FOSSILS, ARTIFACTS, AND PETRIFIED WOOD WITHIN THE WILDERNESS AREAS IS NOT ALLOWED. VIOLATORS WILL BE PROSECUTED UNDER FEDERAL LAW.

DO NOT DISTURB RAPTOR NESTS DURING THE NESTING SEASON (APRIL-JULY).

PLEASE REPORT ANY SUSPECTED VIOLATIONS TO BLM PERSONNEL AT THE FARMINGTON RESOURCE AREA OFFICE, 900 LA PLATA HIGHWAY, P.O. BOX 568, FARMINGTON, NEW MEXICO 87401, PHONE (505) 325-3581.



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**BISTI  
WILDERNESS  
AREA**

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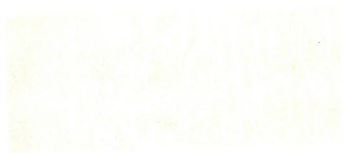
**LEGEND**

- Suggested Parking
- ▬ Wilderness Boundary

0 1/2 1 Mile

**GENERAL LOCATION MAP**





**U.S. Department of the Interior**

**Bureau of Land Management**

**P. O. Box 1449**

**Santa Fe, NM 87501**

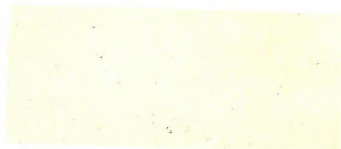
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